

11

any Passive Connectors 310 (there are none yet, as Party A is still the only party to the call). In response, Connection Manager Service 206 directs Switch Fabric Function 222 (via Switch Fabric Proxy Service 208) to make the required physical connections.

Because Party A is requesting a feature (the three-way call), Call Segment Instance Service 202 triggers Feature Processor Function 224. In response, Feature Processor Function 224 provides a command, via API 210, to Call Segment Instance Service 202, to add Parties B and C to the call. In response, Call Segment Instance Service 202 instantiates Call Segment Instances 306B and 306C, instructs Facility Service 204 to instantiate Facility Instances 304B and 304C, and instructs Connection Manager Service 206 to create Passive Connectors 310A and 310B and Active Connectors 308B and 308C. Connection Manager Service 206 directs Switch Fabric Function 222 (via Switch Fabric Proxy Service 208) to make the necessary physical connections, thus creating the three-way call.

IV. Conclusion

While various embodiments of the present invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example, and not limitation. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and detail can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Thus the present invention should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for decentralizing communication services in a telecommunications system, comprising:

- a switch fabric which provides bearer functions;
- a switch intelligence which provides control functions for said switch fabric, said switch intelligence logically separated from said switch fabric;
- a switch fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and said switch intelligence for all communications involving said switch fabric by interfacing to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application program interfaces and interfacing to said switch intelligence with a uniform application program interface; and

feature processor, said feature processor executing at least one telecommunications function, for interacting with

12

said switch intelligence to thereby provide said telecommunications feature.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- at least one facility instance instantiated by a facility service using a facility model, said facility instance representing the bearer and signaling facilities of a party to a call, for interacting with said switch fabric proxy service to communicate with said switch fabric.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- a connection manager service representing the connectors for said party to a call for interacting with said switch fabric proxy service to communicate with said switch fabric.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- at least one call segment instance instantiated by a call segment instance service using a call model, said call segment instance representing the call logic and call data for said party to a call, for interacting with said feature processor, said connection manager service, and said facility instance.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- a first call processing creation environment, said first call processing creation environment interacting with said facility service, for modifying said facility model.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- a second call processing creation environment, said second call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment instance service, for modifying said call model.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- a third call processing creation environment, said third call processing creation environment interacting with said facility service, for creating new facility models.

8. The system of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

- a fourth call processing creation environment, said fourth call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment instance service, for creating new call models.

* * * * *